

As a result of these special observations and a previous study of this subject, I offer the following suggestions with a view to securing greater uniformity in the making of frost observations.

Instructions are now in force directing that snow and ice observations be made at places designated by officials in charge of stations.

During periods when low temperature is liable to prove destructive to vegetation, frost reports are given wide dissemination by telegraph, and it would therefore seem that it is just as essential to require that frost observations be made at definite places as it is in the case of ice and snow observations.

Whether an observer finds light frost before completing a morning telegraphic report may sometimes depend upon the extent of his investigation. At some stations the conditions are such that it might work a hardship on an observer to require him to visit a certain designated place for the purpose of making a frost observation in addition to taking the regular morning observation. However, at practically all such stations the office force consists of two or more men, one of whom could make the frost observation and report the same, probably by telephone, to the observer who prepares the telegraphic report. This plan has been in satisfactory operation at Vicksburg during the past seven years.

Where frost observations are made in a definite place, the frost record for any year is directly comparable with that of any other year, even tho changes in the office force occur frequently. Altho the frost records of the Weather Bureau now show a high degree of accuracy, it is believed that more system in the manner of making the observations would result in still greater accuracy.

I would further suggest that at stations where ice and snow and (in case the foregoing plan is adopted) frost observations are made, the location of the places selected for making such observations be noted in the "station memorandum book". In case it should be deemed advisable to make any change in these locations, such changes should also be noted in the "station memorandum book", with reasons therefor, so that by reference to this book these places could be quickly found.

#### THE PHILIPPINE WEATHER BUREAU.

The Director of the Philippine Weather Bureau, Rev. José Algué, S. J., thru the assistant director, José Coronas, S. J., calls attention to the fact that the observers and employees, both of the observatory and of the meteorological stations thruout the islands, are not mostly Spaniards, as stated in the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for November, 1906, page 517, but are native Filipinos, altho they bear Spanish names; and that, moreover, the only Jesuits actually engaged in the Philippine Weather Bureau are the five officers who constitute the staff of the Manila Central Observatory. He adds:

"Whilst greatly appreciating the courteous praise given our work in the Philippines, we desire that due credit be given to the native observers, whom we find well qualified for such work."—C. A.

#### MAY WEATHER AT BANGOR, MAINE.<sup>1</sup>

According to the monthly report of the weather compiled by Bangor's veteran observer, F. S. Jennison, the month of May was not such a bad one after all. He furnishes a list of the average temperatures for the month of May for the past fifteen years, and during this time, from the point of average, the past month has been the coldest, but the difference in the temperature has been but a very few degrees. The month would not have seemed so cold had it not been for the prevalent winds from the north and northwest. In 1902 the month of May was nearly as cold as the month just past, there being hardly

a noticeable difference in the average temperatures of the two months.

On May 7 it snowed for several hours, but it melted almost as soon as it fell. The heaviest rain of the month came on the 27th and 28th. There was a heavy frost May 21, and all during that week there were slight frosts. The mercury stood at 76° on the 19th, which was the warmest day of the month.

The following is the list of the average temperatures for the month of May for the past fifteen years:

Years.	6 a. m.	Noon.	6 p. m.
1907.....	35	55	36
1906.....	45	62	57
1905.....	39	58	52
1904.....	42	65	59
1903.....	43	67	60
1902.....	35	54	46
1901.....	36	63	49
1900.....	36	52	46
1899.....	39	62	51
1898.....	36	64	54
1897.....	39	55	47
1896.....	43	62	55
1895.....	49	67	54
1894.....	44	61	51
1893.....	40	60	53

#### MAY—PAST AND PRESENT.<sup>1</sup>

By E. D. LARNED. Pated Thompson Hill, Windham County, Conn., June 1, 1907.

No, this is not the worst May experienced. It has not even broken my 56-year record. That feat was accomplished in 1882 with its mean temperature below 50°. In the matter of snow it had no snow worth mentioning, only a four hours' fall on the 11th, which did not even whiten the ground. Here is a sample from Ashford Town Book:

On the fifth day of May, 1761, a very  
Stormy day of snow—an awful sight—  
The trees green and the ground white;  
The sixth day the trees on the blow  
And the fields covered with snow.

EBENEZER BYLES, *Town Clerk*.

Woodstock, May 1, 1761.—The snow began in the morning about sunrise as hard as most ever was known in the winter and was attended with a hard northeast wind. Snowed hard till sundown.

May 19, 1763.—A bad snowstorm.

In recent years we have from Doctor Robbins:

May 10, 1831.—Ground mostly covered with snow. School children threw snowballs and sang gleefully.

"On the 21st of May  
The snow lay in the way" in 1842.

And as for cold, Rev. Abel Stoles reports May 31, 1764:

At night the severest frost in memory.

Our Thompson journalist, Joseph Joslin, agrees with Doctor Robbins in reporting the severities of 1816, with more picturesque detail, such as "Very exceeding cold", "A very large black frost", "Ice froze as hard as window glass", "Ice on grass top like sheet", "Wore coat, jacket, surtout, and wig and none too hot". The perversity of this season extended till late autumn, causing great distress and scarcity. My father harvested his bushels of "nubbins" in great coat and mittens.

Victoria's accession to the throne was noted as the fulfillment of an ancient prophecy, viz:

By the power to see through the ways of Heaven  
In one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven,  
Shall the year pass away without any spring  
And on England's throne shall not sit a King.

The May of 1882, mean temperature 49.27°, exceeded all within my period of observation in unmitigated severity and backwardness. Twenty-five of its mornings were below frost point. An old friend whose birthday, May 17, had for ninety

<sup>1</sup> This article consists chiefly of a letter from Miss Larned, printed in the Hartford Courant of June 4, 1907. Additions have been made from a personal letter.—EDITOR.

<sup>1</sup> Reprinted from the Bangor Daily Commercial of June 1, 1907.